



City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

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Ward 5

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Dear Friends:

While visiting Washington D.C. recently (not at taxpayer expense) I was able to meet with Congressional staff, administration officials and other individuals about postal reform, immigration and defense issues. I want to thank Terry and Tracy for their work in arranging these meetings, for which I will report to you in this edition of the newsletter.



Three years ago, our City got the announcement from the United States Postal Service (USPS) that the Cherrybell Post Office and Processing Center was on a list of USPS facilities that may be closed down. The USPS added that public meetings were being held on this matter to garner testimony on the potential closure.

Tucson's hearing was held three days after Christmas, December 28, 2011. More than 600 people and 50 businesses turned out for the hearing to protest this proposal. USPS officials stated it was the biggest turnout for these hearings that they had across the country.

More than 1,200 letters were written protesting the potential closure during the comment period from people and business owners that chose to speak out about Cherrybell. Despite the overwhelming sentiment opposing this, in February 2012, the USPS announced for the first time that they were closing down Cherrybell in three months.

Intense Congressional pressure from the Arizona delegation, the City of Tucson, and other Senate and House members followed this USPS announcement, which paid off when the Postal Service said it will extend the moratorium scheduled to end on May 15, 2013.

The effort to keep Cherrybell open was working but the battle was far from over.

Our community kept the effort up with letters, calls, Emails and actions by business leaders and elected officials and in September 2013, U.S. Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe testified before the Senate Homeland Security Committee and pledged not to close post offices or mail processing centers before Congress acted on postal reform.

However, on June 30, 2014, Postmaster Donahoe announced that the USPS would be closing processing centers, 82 of them and Cherrybell is on that list. This nearly three year battle is about more than just a post office, it is about:

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- The 1.5 million people who live in Southern Arizona that Cherrybell serves;
- The more than the 26,000 businesses that use Cherrybell to mail their products to customers;
- The Tohono O'odham Nation and Pascua Yaqui tribe who rely on the postal service;
- Our senior citizens who get their Social Security checks in the mail;
- Our veteran population that get their prescriptions through the mail;
- Our rural population in Arizona and their mail system;
- The vote by mail process; and
- Tucson's identity with the postmark, that USPS ended in 2013.

The USPS has never revealed what the numbers of mail and parcels being processed through Cherrybell were to show the need for closure. The USPS has never explained why Arizona, with a bigger population than Wisconsin or Vermont, should be left with only one processing center while these two states have five and four respectively.

This is about our region's future to attract people and businesses to our region. What business would relocate to an area without a processing center nearby?

With that in mind, the best approach for combating the latest announcement to consolidate the Tucson P&DC is through direct appeals to USPS and the Congressional appropriations process.

Since the announcement was made, our federal lobbyists have been working with the Arizona Congressional offices on a letter to the Postmaster General advocating a reversal of the decision. Our lobbyists are also discussing amendment language to include in the appropriations process.

Our federal lobbyists met with Senator McCain's staff and are sitting down with Senator Flake's office to continue to express the City's opposition to the consolidation. Senator McCain's staff reiterated that he voted for the postal reform bill in Committee, and they are happy to pose our questions and concerns to the USPS. There are bills dealing with reforming the postal service in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, so Congress is working on this issue.

The City must reconvene the working group that so effectively made the case for Tucson and Southern Arizona over the past few years, including the City of Tucson, the Tucson Chamber of Commerce, the Tohono O'odham Nation and Pascua Yaqui Tribe, the regional governments and the Pima



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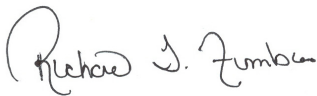
County Recorder's Office. The joint efforts in the past helped turn the situation from an immediate threat of closure to a phased approach that has kept jobs in Tucson.

The business community of Tucson and Southern Arizona, with more than 26,000 businesses, needs to step up as well and have their voices heard on this issue since this could affect their bottom line operations.

While meeting with the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee about the status of discussion on postal reform and the Postmaster General's recent announcement, they emphasized that invigorating the effort collectively, we can continue to make the strongest appeal for Cherrybell, as we have done since December 2011, when the first announcement of closure was made.

Call your Member of Congress and Senator McCain and Senator Flake's office about Cherrybell and how this is more than just some jobs at a post office, but about Southern Arizona and our state.

Thank you,



Richard Fimbres
Your Councilmember

National Defense Issues

During my visit to Washington D.C., I was also fortunate to meet with the staff of Arizona Congressman Ron Barber and the majority and minority leaders of the House Armed Services Committee. All meetings confirmed that the A-10, a 40-year old weapons system, will be protected in the coming year, but momentum to replace it will continue to grow with the Pentagon experiencing increased budget pressures. The future of Davis Monthan Air Force Base (DM) could be quite bright if we can get ahead of the curve and focus on new missions that fit the community's needs.

All sources agree, given the location of the boneyard and the steps the City has taken to expand it, that DM will remain open. The question is how many operating units will be placed there, what their roles will be, and how many Air Force and civilian personnel they will employ. Our goal is not merely to replace the A-10 mission, but to expand and improve upon it.

Given the potential of sequestration returning next year which will put even greater pressure on federal resources, it is crucial for Tucson to get in the debate and to get its position to the highest authorities possible who are engaged in the Pentagon budget discussions.



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Immigration

Lastly during my visit to our nation's capital, I met with Felicia Escobar, Senior Policy Director, White House Immigration Domestic Policy Council, Kevin Bailey, Policy Assistant, Domestic Policy Council, and Elias Alcantara, Associate Director of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Reports indicated that more than 52,000 unaccompanied children were apprehended at the U.S.-Mexico border from October 1st through June 15th, about double the total in a similar period a year earlier, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported. Most of the children are coming through Central America and Mexico.



They stated that the Administration is opening a new facility in South Texas with 1,000 beds to help provide additional space for the children and adults with kids. The hope is that it will stem the need for the children and families to have to travel beyond Texas. Discussions about the \$3.7 billion dollar funding request the President was going to make took place as well.

Specifically, the \$3.7 billion request covers four areas: deterrence, enforcement, foreign assistance and capacity -- paying for the detention, care and transportation of children already in the U.S.

City News

Sun Link Modern Streetcar

On Friday, July 25th, Tucsonans celebrated the dawn of a new transit era and an important community milestone! The grand opening event for the launch of the Sun Link Tucson streetcar was held at Fifth Avenue and Congress Street. Public rides on the streetcar began shortly thereafter with the first three days of service including free rides and a chance to learn more about this new form of travel in Tucson. You can buy a one-day pass for \$4 at machines at the stops, or use your SunGo card, which will deduct from your pass or cash balance just like you're riding a bus.



While our City's new streetcar is the most modern of streetcars, the history of streetcars in Tucson dates back to 1897. During this exciting time, The University of Arizona's Drachman Institute downtown has partnered with Old Pueblo Trolley to present a photo exhibit on the history Tucson's streetcars. The photos are visible in all three display windows at 44 N. Stone Ave.

Each Sun Link streetcar is all electric and uses no fossil fuel. It is also customized for a desert environ-

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ment – with four air conditioning units. Cameras have also been installed for safety and security. The Sun Link Streetcar project is considered to be Tucson's largest and most complex transportation construction project in the City's history. The Sun Link Streetcar project, which includes eight streetcars operating on a 3.9-mile route, between the downtown area and the University of Arizona campus, has received \$75 million in RTA funding toward the streetcar project capital costs and will receive another \$12 million toward streetcar operations. Federal dollars, including a \$63 million (TIGER) grant, the largest of its kind awarded to a single project, cover the remaining project costs. The Sun Link Streetcar project is part of the \$2.1 billion RTA plan, which was approved by Pima County voters in May 2006.

For more information about the Sun Link Tucson Streetcar, visit: <http://bit.ly/1mebZ7k>

Sun Tran CNG Buses

The City of Tucson and Sun Tran have received 10 of 24 new buses using Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). Once all arrive by January, they will replace 14-year-old CNG buses. The new vehicles use a lower-emissions engine than standard fuel and older CNG buses, improving air quality in Tucson. The buses, costing a little more than \$512,000 each, were purchased with funding from the Federal Transportation Administration, City of Tucson and the Regional Transportation Authority.



Sun Van Receives New Vehicles

The City of Tucson and Sun Van - the City's award-winning paratransit service - are introducing 42 new Sun Van vehicles. The vehicles include minivans and sedans to improve system efficiency when full-sized vehicles are not necessary. Once all of the new vehicles are received by the end of next month, they will replace 2009 diesel-fueled vehicles in Sun Van's fleet, decreasing the average age of the fleet from 4.10 years to 2.47 years. The vehicles were purchased with funding from the Federal Transit Administration and the City of Tucson.

Impact Fees Public Hearing

On June 30th, the Mayor and Tucson City Council held a public hearing on proposed updated development impact fees. Tucson currently collects impact fees on all new development, but was forced to stop on Aug. 1 after failing to meet the deadline for adopting a complicated state-mandated update on how it charges and spends the money. Home-builder groups say the City's proposed changes need more work. The plan would boost fees from about \$7,400 to \$10,000 on an average 2,250-square-foot home. Impact fees help ensure that new residents pay some



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of the cost of additional roads, parks, police, and fire equipment required by those new residents and reduce the burden on existing taxpayers. The City Council voted unanimously to direct City staff to incorporate all of the speakers' concerns as they work toward a final draft.

Recycled Water Program

Tucson Water announced that it has completed a master plan for the development of recycled water as a future drinking water source. After thirty years of success with supplying reclaimed water systems to parks, schoolyards, and some neighborhoods, Tucson Water is confident that purification technology is available to ensure safe drinking water. Although the development of recycled water will take several years, ongoing drought and climate changes have made the program a priority. "The City of Tucson leadership has always supported Tucson Water in planning far in advance to make sure we have a safe, reliable water supply for the future," Tucson Water Director Alan Forrest pointed out. For example, planning for the Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal, which today provides most of Tucson's water, began in the 1960s. Tucson Water's comprehensive Long-Range Water Plan, most recently updated in 2012, looks ahead to water issues we are facing today and in coming years.



Recycled Water Master Plan Executive Summary: <http://l.usa.gov/loHS4Q6>

City Partners with Tech Launch Arizona

With the creation of new businesses an important part of the City of Tucson's economic development strategy, the City and the University of Arizona have formed an alliance to incubate local technology start-up companies. The Commercial Network Alliance is a part of the University's Tech Launch Arizona (TLA) program and focuses on engaging local talent and expertise, particularly UA students and faculty.

Tucson has been identified in several recent national studies as one of the most promising cities for entrepreneurship and innovation in the country. The Commercialization Network Alliance was created to help fully realize this promise.

The UA created TLA to move inventions, technologies, and intellectual property from the laboratory out into the marketplace. TLA brings together the faculty and researchers of the UA with the business community to maximize the impact of university research and innovation efforts.

Learn more at www.techlaunch.arizona.edu

Tucson Fire Awarded Federal Grant

Tucson is the recipient of a \$287,000 award from the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance for Firefighters Grant (AFG). The grant will allow the Tucson Fire Department to purchase paramedic equipment necessary to expand its Paramedic Assessment Unit response program (PAU).

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The PAU program is designed to equip first response units with paramedic equipment. These units are most often the first to arrive to a medical emergency. The grant money will be used to purchase 11 PAUs, which contain a cardiac monitor/defibrillator, paramedic drugs and IV supplies, and an advanced airway management kit.

Rep. Ron Barber and Rep. Raul Grijalva played important roles in assisting with the grant, including contacting the Department to outline the merits of the proposal.



Tucson Police Department Receives AEDs

The Steven M. Gootter Foundation tonight presented the Tucson Police Department with 50 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). The money to pay for the AEDs comes from a portion of the \$500,000 raised at the 2014 Gootter Grand Slam charity tennis event in March. The presentation of the AEDs happened at the June 30th Mayor and Tucson City Council meeting with a demonstration on the use of AEDs.

Tucson Police Receives Replacement Bulletproof Vests

Approximately 100 Tucson Police officers received new protective vests through a local program that generated funds over the past year through events, sponsors, grants and donations. The Tucson Police Foundation's "Adopt-A-Cop" program, which began in 2011, helps raise funds to replace the vests for the patrol officers who wear a vest that is five years or older. Foundation officials say one vest costs about \$800. So far, the program has provided vests to more than 300 TPD officers.

Tucson Earns Sustainability Rating

The City of Tucson is just the fifth city in the United States to earn an impressive 4 out of 5 star rating for national leadership in sustainability from the STAR Communities Ratings System. The ratings system measures economic, environmental, and social performance for local governments and the broader community. "The data Tucson submitted made a compelling case that the City is making smart investment decisions to protect scarce resources, grow and retain businesses, and attract a rich diversity of new residents," said STAR Communities Executive Director Hilari Varnadore.



Read the Tucson's full STAR report: <http://bit.ly/1sSt5NS>

Announcements

Summer Movies in Reid Park

Cox Communications and the Southern Arizona Arts and Culture Alliance will host Movies in the Park at Reid Park throughout the summer. Cox invites you to bring a blanket or lawn chair for a free movie along with live music, jumping castles, balloon twisters, and arts and crafts exhibits from area non-profits. Popcorn, soda, and food truck vendors also will be available for an additional charge. Food and activities begin at 5:30 p.m. and all movies begin at dusk (approximately 7 to 7:30 p.m.).

Announcements

Due to the popularity of these events, parking will fill up quickly. Please make arrangements to come early and use the alternate parking area at Hi Corbett.

Parks and Recreation Fall Catalog

The Fall Program Guide and Class Catalog is now available in print form at Parks and Recreation facilities across Tucson. You can also view it online. The guide has information on leisure classes, KIDCO, pools, and sports programs. You also will find information on recreation centers, senior centers, fitness and special needs centers, Reid Park Zoo, Tucson City Golf courses, and year-round pool locations.

Online catalog and registration:
<http://l.usa.gov/lwaYf03>



January 8th Memorial

The January 8th Memorial Foundation and the Tucson Pima Arts Council invite designers to submit their qualifications and design interests to create a Master Plan Concept for El Presidio Park downtown and a schematic design for a January 8th Memorial. The memorial will commemorate both the tragic events of January 8, 2011 and the ways in which the Tucson community proved that "Together We Thrive." The application deadline to submit a design is Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at 11 p.m. The budget for the scope of work is \$90,000, and each finalist will receive a \$5,000 stipend.

From Tucson Pima Arts Council: <http://bit.ly/lnExdPB>

Water Line Insurance

The National League of Cities and Towns is endorsing a water and sewer line warranty program for Tucson residents who are interested in purchasing repair protection. On June 3rd, the Mayor and Tucson City Council unanimously approved a contract implementing the program. Tucson residents recently were mailed details of the offer. Homeowners are responsible for their exterior water and sewer lines. The warranty program, from Service Line Warranties of America (SLWA), covers the homeowner's repair costs for leaking, clogged or broken lines. More than 150 cities, including Phoenix, Avondale and Mesa, are co-sponsors of the League-sponsored program. The Service Line Warranty Program provides an important service to city homeowners, as repairs to the exterior water line can be very costly. A sewer line warranty also available through SLWA.



Learn more about the Service Line Warranty Program: <http://l.usa.gov/114K2vz>

Announcements

Pima County Adult Detention Center General Library

The Pima County Adult Detention Center (PCADC) General Library is reporting a shortage of reading materials for the inmate population and is seeking help.

Why send books and other reading materials to detainees? Reading Materials help inmates expand their educational, vocational and personal development. Reading aids them in avoiding boredom and introduces ways of utilizing their minds for more constructive and positive avenues, thus reducing the potential to recidivate after their release.

To be able to distribute to our inmate population, the PCADC General Library relies solely on donations of books and other reading materials from the community.

In years past, organizations such as the Pima County Re-entry Coalition, Friends of the Pima County Library and the Pima County Faith-Based Programs have helped the PCADC General Library through generous book donations. Our appreciation cannot be expressed by a simple thank you, the value of the book donations cannot be measured, nor can it be overlooked.

Once again, the call for books is going out to the entire community. Because of wear and tear, there is a need to replenish our inventory of paperback books.

Please donate your used or new paperback books for the PCADC General Library. Books can be dropped off at the PCADC (1270 W. Silverlake Road) (Bin labeled General Library Book Donations).



Congratulations and Thank You!

Buffalo Soldiers

July 28th was the 148th anniversary of the Congressional resolution that authorized, for the first time, African Americans to serve in the peacetime army of the United States. Two cavalry and four infantry regiments were created and designated the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry regiments and the 38th, 39th, 40th, and 41st U.S. Infantry regiments. These units had patrolled Arizona and Fort Huachuca had been the home of all these regiments.



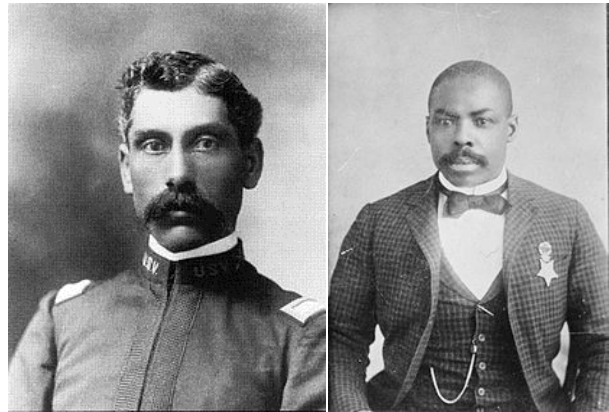
The four infantry regiments later became the 24th and 25th Infantry regiments. The all-African American regiments, commanded mostly by white officers, were composed of Civil War veterans, former slaves, and freemen.

According to the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, the name originated with the Cheyenne warriors

Congratulations and Thank You!

in the winter of 1867. The actual Cheyenne translation was "Wild Buffalo." However, writer Walter Hill documented the assertions of Colonel Benjamin Grierson, who founded the 10th Cavalry regiment, who recalled an 1871 campaign against the Comanche tribe. Hill attributed the origin of the name to the Comanche based on Colonel Grierson's assertions. Some sources contend that the nickname was given out of respect for the fierce fighting ability of the 10th cavalry. Other sources say that Native Americans called the black cavalry troops "Buffalo Soldiers" because of their dark curly hair, which resembled a buffalo's coat. Still other sources point to a combination of both legends. The term Buffalo Soldiers became a generic term for all African-American soldiers. It is now used for U.S. Army units that trace their direct lineage back to the 9th and 10th Cavalry, units whose service earned them an honored place in U.S. history.

The Medal of Honor, the highest award that can be given to a member of the U.S. military, is presented by the president. It is awarded to an individual who, while serving his country, "distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty." The Medal of Honor was authorized in 1862, and has been awarded to 417 men, eighteen were awarded to African American soldiers: 8 were presented to members of the 9th Cavalry, 4 to members of the 10th Cavalry, and 6 to members of the 24th Infantry.



Sergeant Major William McBryar (Left)
Corporal Isaiah Mays (Right)
Both Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients

Councilmember Richard Fimbres hosted the event recognizing the day at the Ward 5 office. He read the City of Tucson proclamation recognizing Buffalo Soldier Resolution Day.

WHEREAS, on July 28, 1866, Congress established six all-black regiments, later consolidated to four, to help rebuild the country after the Civil War and to patrol the remote western frontier during the Indian wars; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Soldiers received their name because of the buffalo's fierce bravery and fighting spirit; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Soldiers fought alongside white regiments in many conflicts and were instrumental in the exploration and settlement of western lands; and

WHEREAS, more than 200,000 African-Americans served in World War I and more than one million served in World War II; and

WHEREAS, over the 82 years of the Buffalo Soldiers' existence, 23 received the Congressional Medal of Honor, as well as Medal of Honor, the highest recognition awarded by the United States Government for military service; and

Congratulations and Thank You!

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Soldiers single Regimental Units ceased to exist in 1948 when President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981 mandating equal treatment and opportunity for African-American servicemen; and

WHEREAS, Arizona Buffalo Soldiers Lieutenant William McBryar, Sergeant Benjamin Brown and Corporal Isaiah Mayes are among the Buffalo Soldiers' most distinguished heroes, each earning the Congressional Medal of Honor;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jonathan Rothschild, Mayor of the City of Tucson, Arizona, do hereby proclaim July 28, 2014 to be Buffalo Soldier Resolution Day

In this community we encourage all our citizens to support the establishment of a Buffalo Soldier memorial in Tucson.

Councilmember Fimbres would like to thank everyone who attended the event, as well as Trooper Floyd Gray – Regimental Unit Activation, Dr. Michael Engs, Regimental Sergeant Major Aaron Plump, Tenth Cavalry Troop B Foundation, Regimental Sergeant Major Bill McCurtis, Ninth Memorial United States Cavalry, Pastor Otis Brown, GSAAC Chaplin and Trooper Sam Freeman, President, GSAAC for their wonderful ceremony to mark this important anniversary.

Work is ongoing to raise funds for a Buffalo Soldiers Memorial, as a fitting reminder of all the African Americans who served in these units. The location of the Memorial will be in front of the Quincie Douglas Center. Councilmember Fimbres and the Ward 5 office are part of this effort to get this Memorial built.



Frequently Used Phone Numbers

Emergency Services

Tucson Police Department or Tucson Fire Department
DIAL 911

Permits

Planning and Development Services Department
791-5550

Housing Assistance

City of Tucson Community Services Department
791-4739

Tucson Convention Center

791-4101

Code Enforcement & Graffiti Removal

792-CITY (2489)

Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services

City of Tucson Environmental Services Department
791-3171

Transportation & Street Maintenance

Tucson Department of Transportation
791-3154

Tucson Water Department

Billing - 791-3242
Public Information - 791-4331

ParkWise

791-5071

Pima Animal Care

243-5900



Community Food Bank

**Help those who are in need.
Give to the Community Food Bank.
For more information call: 520-622-0525**

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and include the word unsubscribe in subject line.

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